

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05594 241722Z
ACTION SS-25

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P R 241431Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4379
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5594

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UK, GW, US, UK, FR, GE
SUBJECT: FRENCH AND BRITISH VIEWS ON RECENT GDR ACTIONS
AFFECTING BERLIN

REF: BONN 05068

1. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS CHARGE HAS HAD OVER PAST WEEK
WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR BAYLE AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR CRADDOCK,
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE DOES NOT SHARE
THE VIEW OF THEIR EMBASSY IN BONN ON A FREEZE OF
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. AND
NEITHER DOES THE BRITISH EMBASSY. BOTH AMBASSADORS SHARE
THE CONCERN THAT, BECAUSE OF RECENT EAST GERMAN ACTIONS
WITH RESPECT TO BERLIN, SOMETHING MORE SHOULD BE DONE
IN AN EFFORT TO TRY TO STOP THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS
FROM TAKING POSSIBLE FURTHER STEPS. AT ONE POINT
AMBASSADOR BAYLE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS "IT IS TOO LATE
ALREADY" TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER ACTIONS. HOWEVER, HE IS
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05594 241722Z

APPARENTLY SUGGESTING TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THERE SHOULD
BE A WESTERN ALLIES MEETING, PERHAPS IN LONDON, BEFORE
MAY TO DISCUSS WHAT POSSIBLE MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN.

2. WHILE BOTH THE FRENCH AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS
RECOGNIZE IT IS THE EAST GERMANS WHO HAVE IMPLEMENTED
THE MEASURES IN AND AROUND BERLIN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL

MONTHS, THEY BELIEVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER STEPS IS FOR THE WESTERN ALLIES TO ADOPT A COORDINATED POSITION WITH RESPECT TO MOSCOW AS THE "BIG BROTHER" AND ONLY SECONDARILY WITH THE GDR. THEY DOUBT THAT TAKINING COORDINATED MEASURES ONLY OR PRIMARILY AGAINST THE GDR WOULD BRING THE DESIRED RESULT. NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR THE BRITISH AMBASSADORS COMMENTED ABOUT THE MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE GDR, AND PARTICULARLY THE WITHOLDING OF VISAS OF GDR TECHNICIANS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY QUESTION THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. WITHIN THE FRENCH EMBASSY, THE STAFF HAS SUGGESTED A SERIES OF STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO MOSCOW; HOWEVER, APART FROM A VAGUE PROPOSAL TO TAKE A HARDER POSITION AGAINST MOSCOW ON CSCE AT BELGRADE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THESE SUGGESTIONS CONSIST OF, OR WHAT AMBASSADOR BAYLE MAY HAVE RECOMMENDED TO PARIS.

3. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO THE FRENCH AND EAST GERMANS CONCLUDED ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT AND WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE READY FOR SIGNING BY THE END OF APRIL. WHILE THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION THAT PERHAPS THE FRENCH WOULD WANT TO HOLD UP THE SIGNING, AMBASSADOR BAYLE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD OR WOULD RECOMMEND DOING SO. ALONG SOMEWHAT SIMILAR LINES, AMBASSADOR CRADDOCK SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND AGAINST POSTPONING THE MID-APRIL VISIT OF GOWORNY-ROBERTS TO EAST BERLIN. WITH RESPECT TO "ECONOMIC SANC-TIONS" AGAINST THE GDR, CRADDOCK VOICED SOME RESERVATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05594 241722Z

SAYING THEY WOULD MAKE SENSE ONLY IF THEY WERE COORDINATED AMONG THE WESTERN ALLIES. EVEN THEN HE WOULD HAVE DOUBTS, SINCE THE "ITALIANS AND OTHERS" WOULD JUMP IN TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON CONVERSATIONS HERE, THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING POLITICAL-LEVEL MEETINGS, PARTICULARLY OF GOWORNY-ROBERTS, SEEM SLIM. BUT IT MAY BE WORTH A TRY, AND WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONVEY DEPARTMENT'S THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT TO BOTH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH HERE IF DEPARTMENT THINKS IT DESIRABLE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON IDEA OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNEMENT FREEZE RE GDR, WHICH WE ASSUME IS NOT STANCE USG WISHES TO TAKE AS INDICATED IN STATE 61229 FOR USE WITH UK AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS. POLANSKY

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